



# Youth Day at City Hall

April 15, 2024



On April 15, 2024, Office of Community Safety staff attended and co-facilitated three break-out sessions on the topic of community safety. We talked with about 30 high school students from:

- Patrick Henry High School/Camden High School
- Roosevelt High School
- South High School
- Southwest High School
- Washburn High School

Each break-out session groups were asked the same series of questions.

1. What services should be in a community safety center?
  - Teens and children
    - i. Tutoring
    - ii. Reading and writing
    - iii. Homework help
    - iv. Jobs
  - Mental health counseling
    - i. Space for youth to talk to someone
    - ii. Showers, hygiene products, help finding permanent housing
  - Housing
    - i. Affordable and sustainable housing services
  - Safe space during crisis
    - i. safe space to go instead of MPD
  - Health care
    - i. Medical equipment
  - Law enforcement
  - BCR
  - Services to respond to emergencies
  - Homeless services
  - Alcohol and drug addiction
  - LGBTQ+ services
  - Immigration services
  - Finance
  - Place to get photos and ID's/DMV
  - Harm reduction services
  - Alternatives to jail
2. What else should be considered in a community safety center?
  - Cultural aspects
    - i. lots of new people to Minnesota who don't know what resources are in schools and the community
  - Safe escort to take you to MPD if you need to visit with them
  - Someone at the front to direct people to where they need to go
  - Pay youth to translate for students and families
  - Use community meals, homework hub, etc., to make it more welcoming.
  - Community space
    - i. meals
  - Protecting the rights of all people who enter the center
3. What should not be included in a community safety center?
  - Keep people away who make people feel on edge:(police, politicians, unsafe people)

4. What's most important? What's least important?
  - Most important: addiction, mental health, economic support, food security, homeless resources
  - Least important: office spaces, legal services
  
5. Issues related to police in a community safety center
  - Some people may not be comfortable entering the building if police are there
  - Need to address the trauma that MPD has caused
    - i. Want to see some lasting changes in the way that police function
    - ii. Need healing as a city
  - For some police means safety, for others it doesn't
  - MPD should be on a different floor
  - Because police are in the same building it needs to be very clear this is separate from the police. Community safety center should be safe for any type of person.
  - Don't hide the fact that police are in the building